

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 04094 200828Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03

H-02 /070 W

-----035833 201003Z /20

R 200120Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSSTATE WHASHDC 8583

AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 4094

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR US PR

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON US/PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S STRIATS TIMES EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE  
US-PHILIPPINES BASE NEGOTIATIONS WILL WORK OUT SATISFACTORILY  
BECAUSE OF STRONG MUTUAL INTEREST IN MAINTAINING AMERICAN  
MILITARY PRESENCE AND VALUE OF THIS LAST U.S. BASE IN  
SOUTHEAST ASIA TO NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS IN THE REGION.

2. FULL TEDT FOLLOWS:

3. "THIS WEEK THE US ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIAN AFFAIRS,  
MR. RICHARD HOLBROOKE, WILL BE HAVING EXPLORATORY TALKS IN  
MANILA WITH PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS ON THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN  
BASES AT CLARK AND SUBIC AS WELL AS ON AGREEMENTS FOR MUTUAL  
DEFENCE AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THE NEGOTIATIONS  
ON THESE ISSUES HAVE LONGGITALLED OVER VARIOUS POINTS,  
THE MAIN ONE BEING FILIPINO INSISTENCE TO ESTABLISH  
CLEARLY FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE US BASES, SPECIFICALLY  
WITH THE AMERICANS HAVING TO PAY RENT FOR THE USE OF  
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PHILIPPINES DISCUSSIONS, PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS COME  
OUT WITH THE VIEW THAT THE PHILIPPINES WOULD BE READY  
TO ACCEPT AID FOR ECONOMIC PROJECTS AS PARTIAL RENTAL  
OR COMPENSATION FOR THE AMERICAN BASES. MR MARCOS  
HAS NOT, HOWEVER, SET OUT IN DETAIL HOW THIS COULD BE  
WORKED OUT, BUT HIS STATEMENT NEVERTHELESS REPRESENTS  
A SLIGHT CHANGE OF MIND, A MODIFICATION TOWARDS

PRACTICALITY. WHETHER CALLED AID OR RENT, AMERICAN DOLLARS ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME.

4. "OF COURSE, THINGS ARE NOT ALL THAT SIMPLE, BUT AS AN INDICATION OF MANILA'S FLEXIBILITY, MR. MARCOS HAS RAISED HOPES THAT THE PROCEEDINGS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WILL BE LESS ROUGH. IT IS POSSIBLE TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES SEPARATING THEM, FOR THE US HAS ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED A READINESS TO GRANT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID. EVEN ON MATTERS OF CONTROL AND JURISDICTION, IT SHOULD BE NOT TOO DIFFICULT TO ALLOW THE US TO RETAIN AN EFFECTIVE SAY IN THE RUNNING OF THE BASES WHILE ACCOMMODATING THE PHILIPPINES' DESIRE TO ACHIEVE FORMAL COMMAND. THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE IRONED OUT, FOR BOTH COUNTRIES SHARE A COMMON OVER-RIDING STRATEGIC AND SECURITY INTEREST IN MAINTAINING AN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE AREA. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF THE VALUE OF THE US BASES, THE LAST TO REMAIN IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA, NOT ONLY IN LOGISTICS AND STRATEGIC TERMS IN THE REGION AND BEYOND, TO THE INDIAN OCEAN, BUT ALSO FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS-- TO BOOST CONFIDENCE AND MORALE AMONG NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS." HOLDRIDGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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